



Ontario Renews Commitment to Supporting Adults with Developmental Disabilities in the 2017 Budget

■ “All Ontarians should have the opportunity to realize their potential and participate fully in an inclusive society.”

— 2017 Budget

The Government of Ontario is building on the 2014 multi-year \$810 million investment strategy in developmental services to provide greater flexibility, choice and inclusion for those with developmental disabilities and their families.

On April 27th, Ontario released the **2017 Budget** which will, if passed, continue the government’s commitment to help people live as independently as possible in inclusive communities as well as help address situations of people with urgent and complex care needs.

With an investment of an additional **\$677 million over four years**, the government will begin by investing over \$130M in 2017-18, that will:

- Provide over 375 additional developmental services residential placements for individuals with urgent needs and youth transitioning from the child welfare system;
- Additional direct support to 1,000 adults with developmental disabilities to participate in their communities through the **Passport** program;
- Establish a specialized residential support home for individuals with complex needs who are moving from justice facilities;
- Expand specialized clinical responses for individuals with complex special needs;
- Improve access to local community services by making the system easier to navigate; and
- Support capital initiatives.

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Beginning in 2017/18, the government will also work with families and community partners to transition more than 400 young adults with complex special needs currently in the children's system into adult developmental services.

While we have made progress much more work is still required to drive real change in the developmental services sector. We need to work

together to expand on innovative ideas in order to assist individuals with developmental disabilities to achieve greater independence and inclusion.

To read more about the 2017 Ontario Budget: *A Stronger, Healthier Ontario* visit the Ministry of Finance's [website](#). ■

Investment Supports Greater Employment Opportunities for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

■ “As I visit agencies across the province, I am seeing the continued expansion of strong partnerships that are driving more inclusivity for people with developmental disabilities in our communities. We have already begun to see the progress that the Employment and Modernization Fund has had on agencies being able to deliver programs that are giving individuals with developmental disabilities greater opportunities for employment.”

— Dr. Helena Jaczek,
Minister of Community and Social Services

On March 30th, the Honourable Dr. Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services visited Community Living York South **to announce** the successful applicants of Phase II of the **Employment and Modernization Fund** (EMF), a program that promotes greater inclusion and independence for people with developmental disabilities.

Minister Jaczek announced the government's investment of more than \$7 million for 38 creative projects across the province. The initiatives were selected from submissions to the ministry as part of a call for proposals **announced last fall**.

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Minister Jaczek announces successful projects as part of Phase II of the Employment and Modernization Fund at Community Living York South.

These projects build on the 38 projects that were selected as part of **Phase One of the EMF**.

The EMF is part of the Ontario government's \$810 million investment strategy for community and developmental services. The fund offers financial support to projects that promote

community-based employment and improve services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities across the province. Projects in phase two are intended to support collaborative and person-centred solutions and the sharing of best practices and resources.

Community Living York South received \$146,000 for their job readiness program, to help individuals develop job search skills and seek competitive employment in York Region. A complete list of the successful projects in Phase II can be found on our **website**.

Minister Jaczek also used the opportunity to announce that the ministry plans to continue funding the EMF beyond Phase II in order to support employment and modernization in the developmental disabilities sector. More details on the future of the EMF will come at a later date. ■

Community Living Agencies Find Success by Offering More Inclusive Programming

Community Living Hanover and Area has provided services and supports for over 30 years to people with developmental disabilities and their families who live in Hanover, Neustadt and the surrounding area. They offer a wide range of employment and residential services

and supports with the goal of enabling people to lead active, inclusive lifestyles within their community.

The agency has recently reported success in their shift away from sheltered workshops

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towards more inclusive support options. Jeff Pilkington, Executive Director, Community Living Hanover and Area said, “Progressing from sheltered workshops has afforded an opportunity to offer more active and inclusive programming options to our members.”

An example of the program’s success is the agency’s relationship with the town of Hanover. Many of Community Living Hanover’s members who performed tasks such as shovelling snow and cutting grass for the Town have been hired as employees after completing the agency’s job skills programming.

Speaking on the success of the new approach, Denise Bender, Employment Services Coordinator, Community Living Hanover and Area said, “It has allowed individuals to show what they are capable of. It went from being a one-sized fits all program – to truly emphasizing the goals and dreams of their clients.”

Further to the north, **Community Living Algoma** (CLA) has taken a similar approach to offer more inclusive supports that will have real benefits for its members. In March, the agency closed its facility that processed specific types of recycling for the city of Sault Ste. Marie.

John Policicchio, Executive Director, CLA, explains, “We’re not in the business of operating businesses; our business is helping people find jobs in the community at competitive wages.”



Calvin Willfang, a full-time participant in Community Living Hanover’s Day Supports Program, working hard for the Town of Hanover.

Community Living Hanover and Area and Community Living Algoma’s successes in moving away from sheltered workshops and offering more inclusive supports aligns with Ontario’s efforts to break down barriers for adults with developmental disabilities and move towards a more inclusive, person-centred community approach, all while making sheltered workshops a thing of the past. ■

Minister Jaczek Receives the 2017 Canadian Helen Keller Centre Award

Minister Jaczek has received one of the greatest honours available to those who work in the community services sector.

This past April, the Minister was recognized for her contributions in supporting, leading and uplifting adults living with deafblindness at the Annual Canadian Helen Keller Centre (CHKC) Awards Luncheon.

The fundraising event organized by the **Canadian Foundation for Physically Disabled Persons** (CFPDP), on behalf of the **Canadian Helen Keller Centre** (CHKC), honours individuals who have made outstanding achievements and contributions to the disability of deafblindness.

In accepting her designation, the Minister said, “Since becoming Ontario’s Minister of Community and Social Services, I have been working to enhance and improve services and supports for people with a number of different types of disabilities. I know that this award will inspire me to work even harder to build a truly inclusive Ontario.”



Minister Jaczek receiving the 2017 Canadian Helen Keller Centre Award at the Annual Luncheon with Hon. Vim Kochhar, Founding Chair, CHKC, Philip Corke, Event Chair, CHKC VP of Business Development, Gone Viral TV and Gulfcom and Jennifer Robbins, Executive Director, CHKC

Ontario has been working hard to renew intervenor services in the province to ensure programs are fair, accountable and easier to access than ever before. This is being accomplished in partnership with agencies, such as the Canadian Helen Keller Centre, with people who are deafblind, and their families.

Congratulations to Minister Jaczek on receiving the 2017 Canadian Helen Keller Centre Award! ■

Employment and Modernization Fund Project Receives International Recognition

Community Living Sarnia-Lambton (CLSL) likely wasn't expecting their innovative summer employment project to receive international recognition – but that's exactly what happened!



Wilfried Kainz, Head of Research and Innovative Practices, Laura Stokley, Coordinator of Employment Options at Community Living, and Bob Vansickle, Supervisor at Community Living, accepting the award at the Zero Project Conference in Vienna.

Funded through Phase One of the Ministry of Community and Social Services' **Employment and Modernization Fund**, CLSL was able to produce a 'turn-key' Summer Employment Toolkit with the goal of making it easy for other

employment service providers to start or enhance their own summer employment programs.

To date, 183 people from 19 agencies across Ontario have participated in the toolkit training, and many more upcoming sessions are planned locally and abroad.

The Summer Employment Toolkit received recognition from the **Zero Project**, an initiative of the Austrian Essl Foundation that focuses on the rights of persons with disabilities globally and provides a platform to share innovative and effective solutions to problems that persons with disabilities face. The project backs decision-makers and opinion leaders in their efforts to implement the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) worldwide.

■ "I'm thrilled that the work that we've been doing may be able to help young people across the world to make an easier transition to employment."

— Laura Stokley,
Coordinator of Employment Transitions
for Community Living Sarnia-Lambton

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Laura Stokley, Coordinator of Employment Transitions for CLSL was invited to present their initiative during the Zero Project Conference 2017, which took place from February 22nd to 24th, in Vienna, Austria.

The province commends CLSL and its Summer Employment Transitions toolkit for demonstrating the value of early intervention.

Research has shown that young adults who are able to participate in the labour market at an early age (through summer employment or other opportunities) have a much higher chance of obtaining employment upon transitioning to adulthood, thereby developing greater independence. ■

MCSS Shout Out...

On April 2nd, Community Living York South hosted their first-ever tax clinic to assist people with developmental disabilities and their parents in filing their tax returns.

In total, accountants prepared 42 tax returns, ensuring participants received the maximum eligible **tax credits** and advantages set out by the province and the federal governments.

The clinic is an example of the hard work agencies, such as Community Living York South, undertake to best support the individuals and families they serve.

For more information, and to learn about next year's clinic, please visit Community Living York South's **website** ■



Ning Ai, Ning Yi, Yiwei Shen, Annie Zhang, Edward Lau, Ritu Singarayer, Councillor Alan Ho, Chloe Ho, Nana Zhou, Janice Woo, Ricky Mak, Catherine Leung, Eric Yip and Susan Shu participating in Community Living York South's First Income Tax Clinic.

Congratulations to Dylan Duncan, Recipient of the St. John Ambulance Life Saving Award



**Dylan Duncan with Lane Burman, the man
Duncan saved, and Jessica Burman Zinger,
Lane's wife.**

Dylan Duncan lives with a developmental disability but that didn't stop him from saving a man's life. On his way home from culinary training at Humber College, (learning that required him to learn CPR), he saw a man collapse on the road. He immediately began to administer CPR until emergency services arrived. Thanks to his heroic actions, Dylan was successful in saving a life. ■


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